

**CLAIMS**

- 5 1. A knitted fabric (12), comprising fibres, at least part of these fibres being metal fibres, said fabric having 90 or more stitches per square centimetre.
2. A knitted fabric according to claim 1, said fabric having 100 or more stitches per square centimetre.
- 10 3. A knitted fabric according to claims 1 to 2, having an air permeability higher than  $2400 \text{ l/10cm}^2\text{h}$ .
- 15 4. A knitted fabric according to claims 1 to 2, having a weight between  $600 \text{ g/m}^2$  and  $2000 \text{ g/m}^2$ .
5. A knitted fabric according to claims 1 to 2, having a thickness more than 0.8 mm.
- 20 6. A knitted fabric of claim 1 to 5, all of said fibres being metal fibres.
7. A knitted fabric of claim 1 to 6, all of said fibres are stainless steel fibres.
- 25 8. A knitted fabric of claim 7, in which the stainless steel contains at least 16% Cr and 10% Ni.
9. A knitted fabric of claim 1 to 8, having the single jersey 1/2 structure (23).
- 30 10. A knitted fabric of claim 1 to 8, having the single jersey 1/3 structure (28).

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11. A knitted fabric of claim 1 to 8, having the single jersey 1/4 structure (32).
- 5 12. A knitted fabric of claim 1 to 11, obtainable by means of a knitting machine with gauge equal or more than 20.
13. A knitted fabric of claim 1 to 11 obtainable by means of a knitting machine with gauge equal or more than 22.
- 10 14. A knitted fabric of claim 1 to 13, comprising yarns with metrical number equal or larger than 5.5.
- 15 15. A knitted fabric of claim 1 to 13, comprising yarns with metrical number equal or larger than 7.5.
- 20 16. A knitted fabric of claim 1 to 13, comprising yarns with metrical number equal or larger than 10.
17. Use of a fabric according to any one of the preceding claims for covering moulds and tempering or press-on rings which are utilised in the process of forming glass plates, or for covering the means of transport by which glass plates are moved during the forming process.
- 25 18. A method to reducing the risk for marking on a glass plate during bending of the glass plate, said method comprising the steps :  
(a) providing fibres, at least part of these fibres being metal fibres,  
(b) knitting said fibres into a fabric, such that said fabric has 90 or  
30 more stitches per square centimetre.

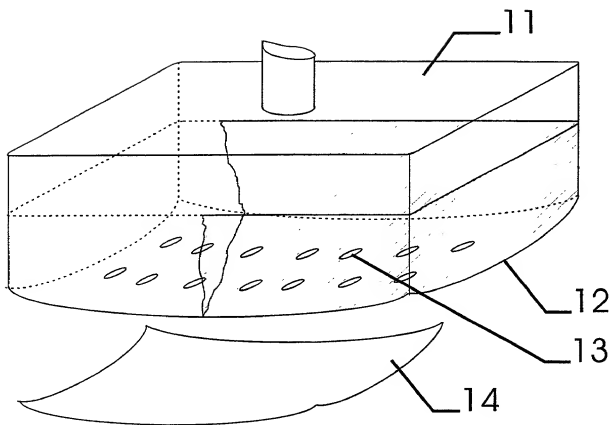


Fig. 1

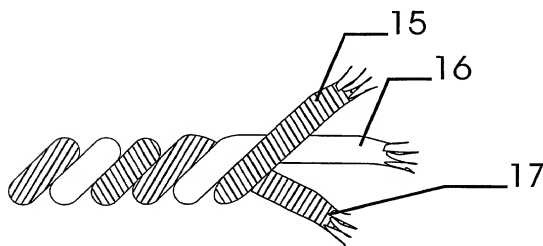


Fig. 2